

Is Your doctrine Corrupt?

Pastor Joseph Clark – October 15, 2020

CHRISTIAN CONNECT BLOG – Dec 18, 2019

Rakesh Bodury Writes:

How does one distinguish between sound doctrine vs. heresy/incorrect doctrines?

Pastor Sam Hostilak Answers:

There are fundamental essentials in being a follower of Christ that we have held to since the dawn of Christianity. (1) the deity of Jesus Christ, (2) the physical resurrection, (3) the reality of Christ's return at the end of time, (4) the resurrection of the dead, the day of judgment... Non-essentials include your view of the age of the earth, your eschatology, your view of baptism as sprinkling or dunking... As individual believers, we must decide for ourselves through study what constitutes the 'essentials'. We are free to join any denomination that we believe is in accord with these essentials and shows freedom in or from the non-essentials - allowing people to disagree with condemning them.

March 19, 2014

Texas A&M University

Ravi Zacharias response to the question: Is Roman Catholicism a Cult?

Ravi: "If you ask me what it takes to be a follower of Jesus Christ, my answer can be brief. If you ask me what it takes to be a member of a particular denomination it will be longer because that denomination can add its distinctives to find uniformity within that group.... I know people in both Catholicism and in Protestantism who are truly followers of Jesus Christ.... What is a cult? A cult is anything that deviates from the historic person and work of Jesus Christ or that adds to his teaching and is generally at the instruction of one individual who dictates that belief. It is certainly cultic at that time. Anyone of us, whether Protestant or Catholic, can end up

becoming cultic by following one brand of teaching. My answer to you is very simple. You follow Christ as best you know how as revealed in the Word of God. And serve him and love him and honor him with your life, in your heart, and your walk and that is what you preach to others as well. God will be the ultimate judge of what groups went wrong in which direction.”

This is going to be a short article. Why? It does not take a lot of space or words to define corrupt doctrine. We live in a world today with a massive list of Christian denominations and independent churches. The fact of the matter is that Christ was irreligious. He came to do away with the legalistic system of religion and reveal the New Covenant between Man, Woman, and God, with Jesus as the mediator. His fundamentals were very clear:

“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

- John 14:6

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

-Acts 4:12

“Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

- Romans 10:9-10

He answered, ““Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’^[a]; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

- Luke 10:27

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

- John 13:34-35

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”

-Matthew 28:16-20

“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy,^[a] drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.”

- Matthew 10:8

So, what is our doctrine? What is our set of beliefs held and taught by us?

To accept Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior in accordance with his Gospels, and to Glorify God in accordance with his Gospels.

These are the basic fundamental Christian belief and purpose.

God is our authority. The Bible is the authoritative standard. We write and read a seemingly limitless number of books, videos, articles, etc. to celebrate and fascinate, and fixate on, God. God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), God the Holy Spirit. But there truly is only one book that we need. The Bible. The Bible is how he speaks to us and commands us. All the answers that we need related to knowing about God, knowing God, and knowing how we relate to God and to one another, are found there.

My point is not to say that we should not read books and watch videos and listen to Podcasts about God. But let us not lose sight of the authoritative standard. We do not need to elaborate on it.

So, what is corrupt doctrine?

Anything that deviates from, changes, adds to, misinterprets, or distorts, Christ's way, truth, and life.

Plain and simple, the Holy Spirit makes it clear to us in The Word that we are saved by Faith and Grace. Not by works. Any church that claims that one must earn their way to salvation through works is presenting a corrupt doctrine. Any church that has traditions, which fly in the face of that which The Holy Spirit tells us in The Word, is presenting a corrupt doctrine. Any church that requires their own altered version of The Holy Bible to support claims made by their false prophets, is presenting corrupt doctrine. Any church that requires you to read a supplemental book over and above The Bible or to follow an entirely different interpretation of The Bible, is a corrupt doctrine. Any church or minister who claims that any aspect of Christ's teachings or ministry is no longer applicable for any reason whatsoever, is presenting a corrupt doctrine.

The challenge with corrupt doctrine is that we must be knowledgeable in The Word to detect it in the first place. How do we do that? Through daily reading of The Bible. Attending Bible Study. Attending church service and listening to sermons. You tube is also a good source of sermons and Bible studies.

The Holy Spirit tells us in The Word:

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

- Matthew 7:15

“For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.”

- Matthew 24:24

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore, they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ...”

- 1 John 4:1-6

“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,”

- 2 Timothy 4:3

“For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,”

2 Corinthians 14:33

Christ’s salvation is basic and simple enough for a child to understand, let alone the rest of us. However, it has a depth that can occupy a lifetime of study and reflection. There is enough study in The Bible in it’s true form to know God. To add to the Bible or alter it is to be rejecting that it is inerrant.

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